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### Explication Reflection

Poetry is a scary subject to me. This may be the by-product of too many “write a poem” projects gone wrong, but I have always had a hard time understanding how the many elements of poetry work together towards a cohesive goal or idea. The poetry unit that we tackled for AP Literature this year, however, managed to give me a deeper understanding of poetry even though some aspects of poetry do not come naturally to me. Therefore, when the Explication assignment was dealt out, I was a bit more confident as to my ability to figure out all of the ideas a poem had to offer, and the different ways that those ideas are purveyed to the reader. I chose a poem from earlier in the course: “Is My Team Plowing?” by A.E. Housman. This poem had intrigued me when we read it in class, because it posed such an interesting question. What happens after we die? Do people remember us? How important are our lives in the grand scheme of things?

These questions became the basis of what I think is one of my better essays as far as analysis goes. I think that this assignment helped me to tie together all of the different literary devices we discussed in class this year and use them for a strong and well-supported analysis. I only had a few lower order concerns as well, so I am fairly happy with this essay as far as both lower and higher order concerns go.

The Explication was a bit different from my previous analysis, which only covered the title of a poem, because it asked me to study and examine an entire work. This gave me much more material to work with, but also forced me to take more time sifting through the poem for the different elements and literary devices. In my opinion, the result was a bit more developed and thought out than my previous analysis.